

FREEDOM ANARCHIST FORTNIGHTLY

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FIFTEEN PENCE

Greece P6 Food Co-ops in Minnesota P4 Kirkdale School P9

MALVILLE: NO FRONTIERS!

NUKES

'IT WON'T BE A FESTIVAL' warned a statement issued earlier this year about the plans for the March on Malville, site of the Super-Phoenix fast breeder reactor a few miles from Lyon. As anarchist and pacifist papers reported in May and June a meeting held to discuss plans for action had agreed that picnics, festivals and other legal activities had been fruitless and that the site of the Super-Phoenix should be occupied and all constructed installations destroyed. "The idea is to submerge the police by weight of numbers and determination, without initiating violence. Militants will have to have protective clothing, wet blankets and cloths soaked in lemon juice to lessen the effects of tear-gas, and also tools for entering and destroying the site." Participants had to be prepared to take risks.

The warnings were well founded. As we now all know the invasion of Creys-Malville over the weekend of 29/31 July ended in the death of one French demonstrator and in injuries to 100 more of the estimated 30,000. Two protesters lost a hand and foot when teargas canisters exploded and one of the reported number of 5000 police (which included the military and riot CRS squads with police parachutists dropping in to hold the inner perimeter of the site) also lost a hand.

Particular attention has been given in the media to the "vanguard of the march" - "men and women in crash helmets and goggles (who) threw petrol bombs and iron bolts, brandished clubs and waved anarchist black flags" (Times). The reports of this vanguard were phrased to seem as terrorist as possible. It contained people "believed to be members of the Baader-Meinhof urban guerrillas" who "carried rainbow flags, the emblem of the peasant revolt in Franconia-Baden in 1525" (Guardian). The German element of the invasion, which also included Swiss, Belgians and some British, was sensationally exploited. The local xenophobic prefecture dubbed the Germans (no doubt justly, but not with that intent) "anarchists who knew no frontiers", while simultaneously comparing them to the Nazis who had occupied the area during the last war! These statements were given prominent treatment by the British media but not the reply of the German demonstrators: "We are not paramilitary commandos. The Prefect's statement uses the fascist myth against

us, who are fighting precisely for the abolition of fascism, particularly the kind that a nuclear society will bring. The atom has no frontier. The construction of the Super-Phoenix is in part financed by German capital. We are here to support the population of the Isère against Super-Phoenix."

Earlier the authorities had hoped that this great demonstration would be dissolved by the fine but persistent weekend rain. Instead, like Brokdorf and perhaps more so, it will be a debating point and point of reference for further action, for some time. Meanwhile the political row that has followed from it in France is centred not on the morality but on the clumsiness of the State's handling of the occasion. For if President Giscard d'Estaing was, at the same time as

Malville, visiting the secret military installations of Pierrelatte, which processes enriched uranium, and singing its praises as symbol of an "independent, secure and responsible" France, the neo-Gaullist Communist Party, together with Mitterrand's socialists, were trying to "recuperate" and weaken the anti-nuclear opposition by holding meetings concurrent with the demonstration in nearby areas. Now what they fear is that the death of one and the serious injuries to others will create sympathy for a cause they do not support. So it is good politics to start a row with Giscard.

As we go to press there is little time to enter into any detail about the events of the weekend, which can in any case be found elsewhere, but several important points arising from them should be noted.

Firstly, the determination of the (in this case French and German) State to destroy the anti-nuclear opposition through a process of criminalisation. This is shown, for instance, in the remarks about urban guerrillas and fascists and in the collaboration of the German with the French police in handing over film on German anti-nuclear protests that would identify known activists and help study their tactics. It is also shown in the tactics of the police themselves, heavily armed with the technology of war and with license to kill where thought necessary. Thus equipped, violence was a virtual inevitability once they had trapped several thousand demonstrators between two roadblocks on the outskirts of the village of Favergue. But the violence is always blamed on the demonstrators,

giving the authorities a chance to claim how insincere is the talk of peaceful demonstration, and to indicate on the contrary the demonstrators' irresponsibility and criminal intent.

Secondly, the clear proof of lack of support not only from the left-wing parties but from the ecological groups who fear for their credibility vis-à-vis the State and who, in their anxiety for "respectability," hastily disown those who use violence to defend themselves or who get caught up in violent incidents. This must lead to the recognition by revolutionaries (cont. pg. 2)

CNT FESTIVAL

THE CNT'S FESTIVAL or "Jornadas Libertarias" was held in Barcelona between 22-25 July. At such an event estimates of numbers attending are virtually impossible. According to some there were 500,000, we thought there were up to 300,000.

CNT membership in Barcelona is currently something over 5000, and national figures are about 50,000.

There were basically two parts to the festival. "Formal" meetings were held in Sala Diana, an old cinema in the city, and included debates on "Anarchism and Marxism", "Sexology and Feminism" (very popular, this one) and others. The Diana also provided films, theatre, etc. The less organised events took place in Park Güell, further out from the centre. Here music and dancing went on from midday till dawn. The Park is an amazing place, designed by the "people's architect" Gaudi and has to be seen to be believed. Also in the park were stalls set up by the local syndicates and groups such as Mujeres Libres, the CNT's feminist section. Here the CNT proved to have a healthy commercial sense, raising money by the sale of food, drink, books and ephemera. International groups set up tables here too, including FREEDOM, FLAG, a comrade from Oxford and another from a women's London anarchist group, AWA and groups from France, Italy, Sweden and elsewhere. Great interest was expressed in British anarchism, as well as in some archive material from the time of the time of the civil war. In particular an English language pamphlet commemorating the death of Durruti, printed in Barcelona in 1937, narrowly escaped being liberated on several occasions.

There can be no doubt that anarcho-syndicalism is expanding rapidly in Catalonia, and the enthusiasm was overwhelming. The events, conversations with Spanish comrades and some history of the Spanish anarchist movement will be written up in detail soon. Meanwhile, the slogan of the Days -

SALUD Y ANARCHAIA

AA & DP

The Wish For Peace

THE CYNICAL PROVERB runs 'If you wish for peace prepare for war'. If this is true, the wish for peace was never greater than in the world today, for war preparations have reached frightening proportions. It is unknown what they will do to the enemy but they terrify us.

Harnessed as we in Britain are behind the war chariot of N.A.T.O. and our American allies we must perforce partake of the same benefits, guilt and possible annihilation.

The keenest brains of our time have developed the most fiendish devices to defend and protect us, or, all too often to threaten and eventually, if necessary, overwhelm those who would attack us. If, to quote another proverb, we are convinced that attack is the best form of defence, it may be that these hellish weapons will be launched strategically prematurely against our chosen enemy. Or rather, against the enemy chosen for us by N.A.T.O., the Americans or our Government which will be no choice of ours. At present the weapons are pointing at the heart of Russia but history has its deviations and yesterday's enemy can be tomorrow's friend.

The international situation is like a poker game with much of the hand concealed but cards are played from time to time and the bids are raised.

We, as spectators—and future victims—are shown, and pay for, cards from time to time as the opponents monotonously overbid.

We are expected to appreciate the finesse and skill which have gone into the playing of each card but as our opponent calmly overbids we feel there is no merit in the game.

First, we were assured as was demonstrated at Hiroshima and Nagasaki; and they were demonstrations of a new-found power that we had nuclear superiority. Now we are told that nuclear bombs have become so common that every anarchist can theoretically produce a do-it-yourself bomb on the kitchen table. However, Governments still have the monopoly of bombs ten times as destructive as the Hiroshima bomb and tests now take place underground since the dangers of nuclear fallout are obvious to the most stupid of statesmen. On Friday July 28th the Daily Telegraph showed a rather unconvincing picture of the Chinese successfully testing a hydrogen bomb which they 'would continue... as long as the Russians and Americans continue to do so'.

Electronics have made a difference in degree to modern warfare; there is no longer the reliance on the aeroplane as a method of delivering explosives upon the chosen spot. Indeed the precision

of computer-controlled missiles makes it possible to fly under radar and at the same time follow the contours of the landscape and home in on the pre-ordained target. A devilish variant is that the mere heat of the target will, in itself, attract the rocket toward it, pursuing if necessary. Additionally such missiles may be directed from mobile launching platforms or their launching sites may offer a bewildering row of targets so that the attackers may not know from which launch-tunnel the rocket will emerge. We have already learned of the warheads carried by prowling submarines ready at any time to emerge and strike.

We have now been told that one of the messier by-products of war has been eliminated—along with people. We are told there is now a bomb which will respect the inalienable rights of property, that will uphold the sacredness of institutions, will keep the heart of our great cities still intact and will preserve our glorious architectural inheritance. In short, this bomb will wipe out unprepared people but after the clouds roll by our gallant soldiers (what remain of them) will be able to resume the bloody business as usual of wiping out what remains of the enemy whilst maintaining intact his vital industries (under new management); his lines of communication (for our use. This is of course assuming that the clouds roll by quickly enough and that we can use fighting gear—probably lead suits—making it possible. It is believed that monkeys have survived such a test.

All the assumptions in the last refinement of weapons are that conventional warfare will survive, at least in the preliminary stages, and this will, to use another charming military anachronism, hold the fort until the big battalions get going. Military minds have an inborn tendency to fight all wars with the weapons of the previous war—inmate conservatism. We are told that one of the aims of the military in 1939 was to increase the fodder allowance and limit the amount spent on new-fangled tanks. The dear gallant old-fashioned anti-semitic Poles replied to the German-Russian invasion of tanks with cavalry charges.

The wish for warfare is a need of scientists and the military to try out these new dangerous playthings. The nation states of the world do not actively wish for war but they wish for those things which they cannot have without the risk of war. They need security: for assurance that their paranoid fears are untrue; for stability in their political systems no matter how unjust; for preservation of their boundaries and gains no matter how arbitrary and ill-gotten.

The deadly gavotte of China, Russia and America continues. Each eyeing

the other cautiously and aping each other's belligerent motions and gestures.

Behind the scenes business as usual. These delightful toys of weapon-systems are sold worldwide to whoever has the money or political necessity for such arms. Such is the flexibility and opportunism of some of the emerging powers that they are quite agreeable to accept arms from all major powers who nominally represent the forces battling for the soul of mankind—and cash on delivery except to approved customers.

The wish for peace conflicts with a need for the money gained from work. In the same way that the scientists welcome war preparations since they give them a chance to exercise their brains and skills, so does the worker unconsciously dig his own grave by welcoming and working in war production industries.

Such is the nature of war preparations today that the equation no longer has any value, the X equals nothing. We might as well start afresh with bows and arrows since no one has any conscious intention of using any of these grim weapons, they merely have them to frighten others.

However a place is still found in technological provisions for the humble conventional foot soldier. For him there has been invented a plastic bullet. Its prime function? Well, when it has been used, it is impossible to detect by X-ray in which part of the human anatomy it has lodged; therefore the chances of hospitalization and recovery are less than from ordinary rifle-fire wounds. Humanity has no place in war preparations. Property preservation yes.

Not until humanity turns around and says 'No' to all this compulsory suicide will the wish for peace find conscious expression.

JACK ROBINSON.

MALVILLE (cont)

within the anti-nuclear movement, and by anarchists and antimilitarists in particular that they are the only real opposition to the plutonium economy and its deep political and social and environmental consequences. The ecological groups will not come to their help when needed, and cannot therefore be treated seriously.

Thirdly, the silliness of the British liberal attitude (prime example, Guardian editorials) which chastises the French government for not holding their equivalent of the Windscale enquiry, thus defusing potential violence, and congratulates itself on the "democratic" attitude of the British authorities. Nothing could be further from the truth! The only lesson to be derived from Windscale versus

(cont p.6)

ANTI-NUCLEAR protesters picketed Australia House in London last Saturday afternoon to draw British public attention to shipments of uranium ore to be unloaded this month at Tilbury Docks from the container ships Act One and Kangourou.

These ships were loaded in Australia in a military style operation in which police used violence against anti-uranium demonstrators. According to the latest news from that country 450 persons were arrested last Saturday in Brisbane during more anti-uranium mining protests held in that city. Clashes with the police were also reported in Sydney and Melbourne docks during protests against the shipment to Europe of uranium ore.

All over the Western world people are showing their concern about nuclear policies imposed upon us in the most secretive manner by capitalist governments.

In Europe violent confrontations took place recently between the army and police and demonstrators protesting against the erection of new and more dangerous nuclear power plants.

In Britain the Windscale complex has been up to date free from militant anti-nuclear action, probably because the anti-nuclear movement has been espoused lately by tamed and reformist groups of ecologists and pacifists hoping to change the British Government's deadly nuclear policy by peaceful protests.

Considering that nuclear oblivion is the biggest threat held over our heads by the might State, anarchists in this country should reconsider their passive attitude in relation to the anti-nuclear movement emerging again in Britain.

The fight against the nuclear menace is too important to be left to the care of ecologist and pacifist groups alone. This nuclear danger must be stopped by militant action instead of symbolic poses, as was the case last Saturday in front of Australia House.

Claude.

FREEDOM

MALVILLE



Malville is the greater subtlety of the British ruling class. Windscale will help to prevent the build-up of a militant opposition because it is absorbing and exhausting the nuclear protesters in a long court wrangle; it is helping to divide them among themselves and at the same time gives the impression that the prob-

able outcome in favour of British Nuclear Fuels and the plutonium society was fairly arrived at and must therefore be abided by.

Fourthly, but not last, the role of the workers, apparently conspicuous by their absence at Malville. The left-wing French paper Rouge laments the attitude of "the majority organs of the working class," because "only the joining of the anti-nuclear movement with the workers' organisations will be able to block the development of the French electro-nuclear programme." Rouge adds a reassuring note that there are signs of growing concern about nuclear energy in the "workers' movement". Still, the fact remains that the attitude of the workers, naturally anxious for jobs or heavily influenced by their Communist and Socialist unions, **is the most serious** obstacle to the development of the anti-nuclear opposition. This desperately needs to convince them of the universal threat of the fast breeders.

FBG

TORNESS

ON 6 and 7 May there will be an anti-nuclear event at Torness, recently announced by the government as the site of one of the two Advanced Gas-Cooled Reactors (AGRs) it wants to build in Britain. The London Greenpeace Group is organising transport from the London area (probably coaches, but a train if enough people want to go) and ask that would-be participants wishing to go up from London send a £ 2 deposit to Greenpeace (London), 6 Endsleigh Street, London W1.

Torness is just 30 miles from Edinburgh, near the A1 from the border at Berwick, the nearest main town being Dunbar. The plans for the event, which is being organised by the Scottish Campaign to Resist the Atomic Menace (SCRAM) are to assemble at midday on the site of the proposed AGR and then to camp overnight. There will be further events and workshops on the Sunday and the site will be evacuated on Sunday afternoon, although if the proposals are not dropped it is highly likely that a fresh site occupation will take place. SCRAM have pointed out that this is almost the only chance for the British anti-nuclear movement to oppose development which has not already started (i.e. it is a "green fields site") and this, say Greenpeace, could be the chance for the movement here to catch up on other countries, particularly taking as a model the Clamshell Alliance campaign against the Seabrook nuclear plant in the USA.

Participants should take sleeping bags and, if possible, tents. For information about transport from other areas than London, and for more details of the event itself, contact: SCRAM, 2a Ainslie Place, Edinburgh 3 (tel. 031-225 7752).

COUNCIL'S FEAR OVER TORNESS

LOTHIAN Regional Council want the Government to STOP WORK on the controversial Torness nuclear station and have a rethink on Britain's energy policy.

Yesterday councillors expressed fears over possible dangers at the plant near Dunbar.

Their shock move follows a series of protest meetings at Torness.

Last night a spokesman for SCRAM—the Scottish Campaign to Resist the Atomic Menace—said:

“We are delighted that Lothian Region has taken this initiative

LEADING American scientists say in a new report that the effects of a nuclear war will not be as disastrous as has been predicted. They say that the worst damage a series of nuclear explosions would cause would be to the ozone layer and cause blistering of the skin and possible death from lack of protection from ultra-violet rays. Skin cancer cases could rise through nuclear attacks by as much as 30% for forty years plus a 20% increase in genetic damage, decreasing after about four generations. Food supplies (particularly peas and onions) would be affected by the ozone layer depletion. The report says white cows would be particularly affected. Climatic changes would cause a drop in average global temperature in several tenths of a degree Centigrade.

NUCLEAR OCT '75.

Alternatives

SOLAR ENERGY FOR BUILDING

UNDER EXISTING conditions the cost of energy has become a serious social problem; social arrangement, transport, building, have all been geared to cheap energy.

At the North East London Polytechnic there was a seminar on 26th February in which many aspects of the use of solar energy in Britain were discussed.

The British government has not thought it worthwhile to put resources into a programme to research the possibilities in this field and most of the development work has been done by private individuals and companies.

However, probably the largest experiment has been done in a most unlikely area -- a school, St. George's in Wallasey, near Liverpool. The whole building has been designed to be heated primarily by solar energy supplemented by the heat derived from the lighting system. There is a back-up conventional radiator system for extreme conditions but this has been rarely used and the cost of providing conventional energy has been substantially lower per child per annum than in any other school, even including capital costs of the solar heating installations.

There are now some 30 commercial firms producing solar panels and there are many houses now being built incorporating such features. The cost of solar panels is high - in the order of at least £50 per square metre, as the ideal material, copper, is scarce and expensive. Therefore to convert an existing building is quite expensive. This is substantially reduced when, as

at St. George's, the building is designed to prevent heat loss and part of the structure has the double function.

Under social conditions existing in Britain today, the new technology, because of the expense, is unlikely to affect the underprivileged who are finding the cost of energy so onerous. For instance, solar energy is particularly useful in the case of swimming pools, which can be completely heated by this method. So the already privileged will doubtless benefit. With the clamp down on public expenditure it is unlikely that public amenities like swimming pools will figure very high in priorities.

One of the lecturers pointed out that this technology could benefit third world areas of low income, because generally speaking low income coincides with high solar energy. Personally, I would have thought that the problem here was lack of water; a problem which should be receiving the most attention. Water is generally necessary to enable people to use solar energy. Inadequate water supply was one of the problems the 'Street Farmers' found in Portugal in rural areas (see FREEDOM 7.2.76, pp 6-7).

An interesting paper was given by Clive Latimer on a low energy open system house built from prefabricated parts and amenable to self building. He pointed out that in Britain the tradition of self-building is practically non-existent, whereas in the U.S.A. one-fifth of building is done this way and reflects a net saving of 50% of cost. In fact in Britain self-building has been actively discouraged, as anyone who has tried it will have experienced. Now, of course, high cost of land and high interest rates add considerably to the difficulties.

This seminar added to my knowledge of the problems of using solar energy. I did however come to the conclusion that its universal application depends on keeping things as simple as possible, for that gain in energy could be lost in the cost of collecting it. It also occurred to me that there is a valuable source of energy of which there is now a vast amount in the world which if used economically, non-exploitably and joyfully could replace a lot of uneconomic fossil fuel. That energy is human energy, much of which is used wastefully, not at all, or destructively. A lot of this energy could be used along with the most effective form of solar energy use, which is growing things -- in smaller units than is done in most of agriculture today, where the energy produced is exceeded by the energy consumed.

Many of the equations discussed at the seminar were the equations of an obsolete financial system and these sorts of equations restrict the benefit of technical knowledge, as ever, to the privileged.

Alan Albon.



The group has sent a letter to the Department of the Environment stating: "Friends of the Earth will oppose the BNFL application on the grounds that the proposed oxide plant is unnecessary, and is liable to be a technical and economic failure with severe local and national repercussions; that it will in any case exacerbate rather than ameliorate local economic and social difficulties; that it will aggravate problems of radioactive waste management; and that the preparation and distribution of plutonium on the scale proposed will seriously undermine the international effort to control the proliferation of nuclear weapons."

FOE have launched a Windscale Fighting Fund which is supported by a number of organisations including the National Council for Civil Liberties, the Natural Resources Defence Council (USA), the Network for Nuclear Concern, the Socialist Environment and Resources Association and the Town and Country Planning Association.

Contributions to the Fund should be sent to "The Windscale Fighting Fund", 9 Poland Street, London W1V 3DG. For further information contact Tom Burke or Czech Conroy, 01-434 1684 (office). 01-671 2753 (home)

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WINDSCALE FIGHTING FUND

ON 14 June a public enquiry of unparalleled importance for the future of energy in Britain will open in Whitehaven, Cumbria: the enquiry into a new reprocessing plant at Windscale for the separation of plutonium from spent nuclear fuel.

To prevent the case going by default Friends of the Earth last Thursday (14 April) launched an appeal for £25,000 for legal and other expenses. According to FOE's executive director, Tom Burke: "BNFL have unlimited access to public money to back their case. It would be a travesty of justice if the case against the development failed only for lack of money. Having succeeded in securing a public inquiry into BNFL's plans we are determined to raise the £25,000 necessary to do justice to our case, and we appeal to all those who have helped us so far to make sure that we succeed."

FOE are preparing a programme of fund-raising activities to include a rally on 14 May at Friends House,uston Road and the selling of shares in a Non Nuclear Future.

MAY '76 ENERGY

NUCLEAR OUTLAW

THE STOCKHOLM International Peace Research Institute has published a report: The Law of War and Dubious Weapons, stating that weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear weapons, must be outlawed as soon as possible. The report argues that what is urgently needed is clarification on an agreed international basis of what constitutes the "minimum standard of humanity applicable in war". And any weapon which is seen to violate that standard "should be officially prohibited".

Apart from nuclear weapons the report lists environmental weapons, e.g. those used during the Vietnam war to destroy crops and agricultural productivity, geophysical and biological weapons, delayed-action and chemical weapons, and high-velocity and incendiary fragmentation devices including flechettes.

To outlaw some weapons, obviously the most dangerous ones, and to allow others to be still existent in the line as embodied in the Geneva and Hague conventions, does not cover up the fact that war is still accepted as a "legitimate" means of "national security" and "military strategy" requires it.

It is sheer ridiculousness to issue a report demanding the prohibition of certain weapons in fear for the survival of humanity on the one hand while permitting smaller devices on the other.

The report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute clearly shows its reformist character. Instead of demanding the prohibition and abolition of all kinds of weapons, a certain category of weapons which might be useful to "defend" the ruling classes in power is not considered as a threat to the minimum standard of humanity. The liberal minded peacemaker does not want to give up the

idea of having weapons. Because they still cling to the outdated belief that offensive aggression is an inborn instinct. And they back up their belief by all kinds of academic hypotheses. Offensive aggression is the result of education, learning from models and socio-economic environmental conditions, but definitely not inborn. As an anarchist I demand abolition of all weapons, nuclear ones and so-called "humanitarian" ones. I do not want to take part in oppression and violence.

And an anarchist society which demands weapons will not be an anarchist one.

Brokdorf: Vision of the Future?

SIX THOUSAND five hundred police - the equivalent it was pointed out, of a Second World War armoured division - equipped with water cannon, armoured cars, automatic weapons, tear gas grenades and helicopters, descended last month on the nuclear site of Brokdorf in West Germany. Facing them were a crowd of demonstrators numbering only 3,500 more. At Itzehoe near by another demonstration included Scandinavian protestors concerned at the effects accidents in German nuclear power stations could have on the Danish and Swedish populations. German press reports commented on the apparently acrid disputes between pro-Moscow Communists and Spartacists, Trotskyist "Spontis" and anarchists as to which demo to support. (The one at Brokdorf had been banned till, at almost the last moment, a local court decided otherwise, and some people didn't want trouble).

Brokdorf is particularly memorable as a justification of the arguments advanced by groups concerned with the threat the plutonium economy brings to even the small modicum of liberty that has been painfully won for us over the years. At the previous massive Brokdorf demonstrations in October and November last year protestors were beaten up with clubs and dispersed with tear gas, and some were seriously injured. Now, talk by government officials and their hacks in the media is aimed at portraying the nuclear objectors as dangerous political criminals, stirring up civil war in their own sinister interests. The situation, said prime minister Gerhard Stoltenberg recently to *Der Spiegel*, had been "extraordinarily dangerous" - he meant, of course, for the police. And already we have been shown a glimpse of the character of the nuclear state of the future with the affair of Dr Klaus Traube, an atomic scientist whose home was

bugged in his absence by the secret police (without judicial consent) after he was suspected of contacts with an international terrorist ring led by the ubiquitous Carlos.

At home fresh nuclear battles loom on the horizon. There is the "public" enquiry into the building of a new £900 m. nuclear fuel plant at Windscale - in that Cumbrian square mile of the world's densest concentration of nuclear installations. Forty-five miles away across the Solway Firth protestors are fighting British Nuclear Fuel's plans to manufacture tritium (regarded as an active ingredient in future atomic weapons like the neutron bomb). All Orkney seems to have risen against plans to exploit its uranium deposits, and Cornwall too its fighting proposals to use it as a nuclear dustbin.

As these battles develop people look back to the heyday of CND - some members of the political Establishment with a mixture of hope, dismay and even excited apprehension. Conservation Society president Lord Avebury said last year that "We are going to need a mass movement on the scale of CND if we are to stop this move to nuclear madness... We are going to be forced to be outrageous." Faced with the AEA's determination to begin the detailed search for a nuclear waste disposal site in Scotland next month, the Scottish Labour MP for South Ayrshire, Jim Sillars, has warned that civil disobedience might now be the only remaining means of opposition. Meanwhile, the more radical Friends of the Earth reflect on the use of "measures at least as serious as those employed by the Committee of 100 in its direct action campaigns of the early 1960s." They add "So demonstrations and occupations of proposed sites" (as at Malville in France), "publication of confidential government documents" (Spies for

Peace, etc), "theft of sensitive materials, obstruction of fuel cycle and nuclear waste transports and even occupation of existing power stations and fuel cycle facilities should be considered possible."

This reminds us that opposition to nuclear power with its grave political and ecological implications, and the fight to replace it with a decentralised economy relying on a variety of alternative energy sources, has to be seen in the context of the struggle against the Official Secrets Act, the Criminal Trespass bill, the counter-terror legislation, and so on. "At least" Committee of 100 type tactics directed to the undermining of all these props of State power must be used to the full. Their destruction is our success.

FSG

PLUTONIUM and PLUTOCRACY

... OR "OUR EXPANDING ATOMIC STUPIDITY" which was the title of an issue of *Rude Health* published by the Kingston Clinic in the forties ...

That atomic stupidity is still expanding in 1976. As a speaker at the Alarm against Nuclear Technology demonstration at Trafalgar Square on 20 November observed, Pluto had something to do with Hades and the devil. I would take it a step further and point out that the word also occurs in plutocracy, and this alliance of power, wealth and plutonium is what it is all about.

In the early days of the industrial revolution the powerful and privileged invariably lived to the windward of industrial pollution and escaped its worst effects. Radioactive material is quite indiscriminate and this is making even the plutocracy falter in the drive to get more power from nuclear sources. In Sweden the social democrats were defeated on this very issue and the new president of the USA is reported to be very alarmed at the prospect of its development in that country. The Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution said, "We should not rely for energy supply on a process that produces such a hazardous substance as plutonium unless there is no reasonable alternative."

In Germany a demonstration of 30,000 against a nuclear site on the Elbe erupt-

ed in violence.

The Trafalgar Square demonstration was organised to block development of a processing plant at Windscale in Cumbria and supported by a vast spectrum of environmental, civil liberties, libertarian, peace and women's movements. It was predictably not a mass demonstration and except for one speaker held with impassioned middle class restraint.



Prototype Fast Reactor at Dounreay.

It is necessary to break through the blanket of ignorance about the subject amongst the mass of the people and to indicate the connection between privilege and power and the development of human debasing techniques. The trade unions should develop a wider perspective such as that of the Australian building workers and not be so shortsighted as to support the development at Windscale because of 2000 jobs. This sort of high technology makes fewer jobs, not more, and might ultimately deprive

the unions of a large number of members.

Even in capitalist terms the high cost of investment per worker can only inevitably result in more unemployment among the unskilled. In capitalist society, in spite of the environmental dangers, the vast interests of the nuclear lobby acquire a momentum that can only be resisted by militant and Committee of 100 type activity.

The dangers to the whole of society (not only in terms of physical menace) and to the possibility of ever developing a free society are so immense that it is my opinion that this matter should become one of prime concern.

It is an issue that presents a danger to all people, irrespective of class and colour, in that once embarked upon on a large scale its consequences are irreparable. The Cornish nationalist who spoke at the meeting said that a resistance committee had been formed that will go to almost any lengths to prevent Cornwall becoming a nuclear dumping ground. This is the spirit of freedom and the real essence of human progress. The only spirit that will prevent human society drifting towards a new dark age.

A.A.

7.1979
Thousands
storm atom
plant site

By RAY DUNCAN

Several thousand anti-nuclear demonstrators yesterday threw their time-table to the East Coast wind and mounted a full-scale occupation of a proposed atomic power station at Torness — 24 hours ahead of schedule.

The protesters overcame the 10ft.-high perimeter fence, which was spiked with barbed wire, some by tunnelling. The majority climbed over with the aid of stacked-up bales of hay obtained from a local farmer.

A "peaceful" occupation of the South of Scotland Electricity Board site near Dunbar, East Lothian, had been planned for today, but many of the 5000 attending the rally from all over Europe were having to get back to work and the organisers agreed to an early takeover.

The only trouble came when a group of about 150 entered an internal compound where the bulldozers and other vehicles

were parked and scores of police reinforcements were called in.

Tyres were let down, a fire extinguisher was let off, a fuse box was damaged, and an oil drum was set on fire. Two demonstrators were arrested but were later released. It is understood that no charges are being made.

Other demonstrators managed to persuade the group to leave the internal compound and later one of the organisers, Mr David Sommerville, of the Scottish Campaign to Resist the Atomic Menace (Scram), condemned their actions.

The organisers praised the police handling of the rally and the "low profile" they had kept.

Last night while some demonstrators were packing to leave the tent city which has sprung up since Friday on the East Coast, many had moved their belongings on to the site to continue the occupation.



Demonstrators crossing the fence at the site of the proposed nuclear power station at Torness.

FROM TORNESS

GIANT pylons will stretch across central Scotland for the sake of power from Torness.

The 400,000 volt pylons at 166ft.—they are just 34ft. smaller than Edinburgh's Scott Monument—will be the biggest in the country.

And they will be routed through 100 miles of countryside between Torness, Edinburgh, the Borders and Glasgow.

The pylons will pass through some of the most scenic areas in the country to feed nuclear-produced electricity into the National Grid.

The pylons will be placed 1200ft. apart and will carry four bands of heavy cables, each more than one inch thick.

The South of Scotland Electricity Board say the routes are still being discussed, apart from the lines from Torness through East Lothian to a sub-station at Dalkeith.

But the pylons have been labeled as "desecration" of the countryside by anti-nuclear groups.

The Scottish Campaign To Resist The Atomic Menace are also worried about possible health hazards.

Their spokesman Collin Hastie told the Mail: "There have been numerous reports of people suffering from side effects when living

next to these power lines."

And Edinburgh and District Conservation Society spokesman Arthur Bennet said: "Building these monstrous eyesores is in complete contradiction to the work of other Government departments, such as the Countryside Commission."

And residents along the routes of the proposed power lines between Fala and West Calder claim they have not been consulted by the S.S.E.B.

A spokesman for the

TO SCOTLAND: Giant pylons stretching for 100 miles

S.S.E.B. confirmed that the new power lines will cross central Scotland using the shortest possible routes.

But he denied that the 400,000 volt lines were a potential health risk.

SUPPORT

He said: "It is not a case of saying we will be putting lines here and that is final."

"The routes are being discussed with the planning authorities and individuals will get their say."

Mr Bill Prior, secre-



Part of the route which will be taken by the pylon line.

tary of the Countryside Commission in Scotland, said: "We are not in the business of saying we should not have these power lines."

"Our job is to try to ensure that the least possible damage is done."

The giant pylons are necessary because they must be strong enough and tall enough to support the four bands of heavy cables which will run in between.

The S.S.E.B. rejected the idea of putting them underground because of the massive costs involved.

But the cables will run

below the surface for a few miles from Torness for environmental reasons.

Yesterday Mr Malcolm Dent, factor of Boleskin Estate, overlooking Loch Ness, who successfully forced the North of Scotland Hydro Electric Board to change their plans and use underground cables, described the pylon plan as "obscene."

He said: "Our battle was on amenity grounds and resulted in a public inquiry which we won. If any conservation or pressure group wants details I'll be delighted to help."

Meanwhile the Mail gets inside Hunterston

THIS IS an inside view of the trouble-hit nuclear power station at Hunterston, Ayrshire.

To the layman it looks like a film set for a futuristic film, but the towering structure is a charge machine which feeds the reactor.

Inside the reactor there are submarine-like conditions where 60 men at a time work three hours on, three hours off, round-the-clock.

Three days ago a fire flared close to the nuclear core of reactor No. 4 in the Hunterston "B" station.

It was that same reactor that two years ago was knocked out following a £40 million "slip up" when a valve failed to work and sea water flooded part of the cooling system.

Now specially trained welders and fitters face the daunting task of replacing 2800 steel plates—hit by corrosion—along with thin sheets of steel in between layers of fibre insulation.

These act as a heat shield from the reactor core.

Six days before the

blaze hit the radiation changing rooms, Mail reporter Nick Hunter and photographer Andrew Allan became the first newspapermen to be allowed into the reactor itself.

To get into the eight foot by six foot passage, they had to go through the radiation changing rooms—the same ones that were later destroyed by fire.

Wash

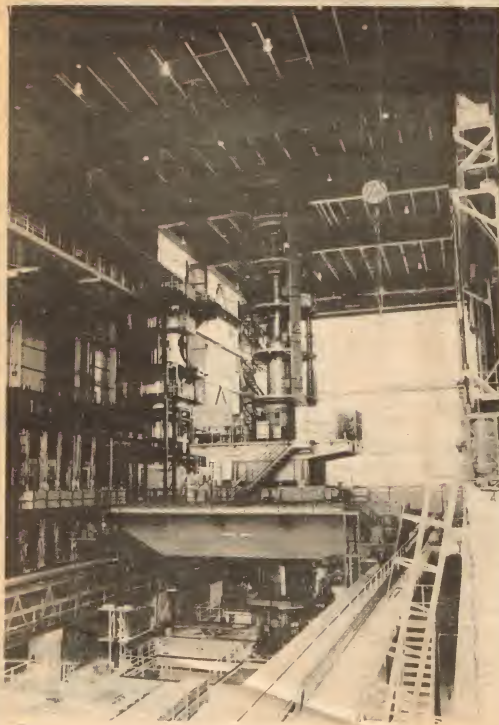
Firstly, they had to remove all loose change, jewellery and small articles from their pockets. They were asked if they had any cuts or recent dental fillings.

Then they donned special boiler suits, boots, gloves and hats.

The attitude of the workmen and management alike was one of supreme confidence in the safety of the system.

On leaving all people have to wash their hands and place them in a special machine which, through a system of lights, indicates if they are "safe" or not.

After that a geiger counter is passed over their clothes and shoes to ensure they have not become contaminated.



**Nuclear
power:
A
boon
or a burden?**



A PRESENT

MILLIONS of tons of coal from Scotland are to be taken 400 miles by ship for power stations in England.

And the consignments will be transported from pits in the Lothians . . .

By JOHN MCGURK

which lie on the doorstep of the planned nuclear power station at Torness.

The disclosure has shocked and angered anti-nuclear campaigners who have argued that any new power stations in Scotland should be coal fired. For Scotland has coal seams

which experts say will last another 500 years.

The coal will come from the Bilston Glen and Monktonhall pit in Midlothian and from a new seam in East Lothian, which lies only 18 miles from Torness and contains five million tons.

Last night Scottish National Party energy expert, Gordon Wilson described the coal export as "ludicrous," and said he intends to raise the matter with the Government.

Mr. Wilson, MP for Dundee East, told the Mail: "The coal could be used for our own power stations but instead it's going to England—and we will be left with a nuclear station at Torness."

He is being backed by the Torness Alliance—protest groups, the Scottish Campaign for the Removal of the Atomic Menace (SCRAM).

The coal will be moved via rail links to Leith Docks where the National Coal Board and the port authority have built a £900,000 shipping terminal.

It will be capable of handling 300,000 tons of coal a year which will be shipped to power stations in the South East of England, mainly in the Thames area.

Bilston Glen and Monktonhall are the biggest coal producing pits in Scotland, and the new seam at Blindwells in East Lothian was opened last autumn.

The coal shipping plan is necessary because pits in Northumberland and Durham are running out.

Reaction to the plan was fast and furious last night.

Mr. John Leach of the Torness Alliance said: "This is astounding and it is typical of the confusion which exists in the energy sphere."

"Scotland is to become an exporter of coal to England. Yet we are building a nuclear power station at Torness which is only a few miles from 5 million tons of coal."

"This disclosure proves that a nuclear station at Torness is unnecessary."

MYTH

SCRAM's spokesman Mike Spring said: "This coal export deal proves that the energy gap is a myth—yet it is supposed to justify the building of a nuclear power station at Torness."

"It is certainly ludicrous that millions of tons of coal are on the doorstep of Torness yet the SSEB are taking the risk of building a nuclear power station there with all the consequences that involves."

Mr. Douglas Wynn, lecturer in environmental politics at Stirling University, has constantly

**TO
ENGLAND:
Scots
coal
for a
power
station**

argued for Torness to be coal fired.

He told the Mail: "This shows the absurdity of the investment in nuclear power."

Mr. Wynn said that coal reserves at other proven sites in East Central Scotland were 750,000,000 tons.

These reserves run under the Firth of Forth and through Kincardine, Grangemouth and Stirling-shire.

COST

Mr. Wynn said: "The SSEB's reasons for not investing in coal for power stations are political and strategic."

"Yet the cost per unit generated by a coal station is cheaper than a nuclear station."

The massive coal reserves in East Central Scotland were confirmed by the Scottish Secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers, Mr. Eric Clarke.

The NUM had also argued for coal instead of nuclear power at Torness.

Mr. Clarke said: "Scotland has 450 to 500 years of coal supply—there is no shortage up here."

A spokesman for the SSEB said that their three coal fired power stations—Cockenzie, Kincardine and Longannet—use 8 million tons of coal a year between them.

He added: "Torness was always planned as a nuclear station because 70 per cent. of the board's electricity is already generated by coal stations."

"It is the board's policy not to put all our eggs in the one basket but to obtain a mix between coal and nuclear power."

The 10-year wait

SITE WORK began at Torness last November, but it will be 10 years before the power station produces any electricity.

The South of Scotland Electricity Board claims the power from Torness will be vital by the late 1980s.

They say demand for nuclear-powered electricity will increase because coal and oil reserves will run out by the turn of the century.

Torness will cost £740 million but few people will be employed during the first two years operations.

About 1700 jobs will be

created in the seventh year. When complete, there will be 600 long term jobs.

There was a public Inquiry in June 1974, and, the following February, the Scots Secretary gave the go-ahead.

The station will use an advanced gas cooled reactor like those already in use at Hinkley Point, in Somerset, and Hunterston B, in Ayrshire.

Last February the SSEB applied to the Secretary of State for consent to build an AGR station and permission was granted last May.

6pm Saturday... Tormess... report-back... raring to go!

This afternoon amongst the merry-making, trading, spectating, and sunbathing a sizable group of people met and talked about the proposed occupation. The overall feeling of this meeting - which was called under the title 'anarchist workshop' - was that the occupation of the site should be made as simple as possible - which meant that the fence should be perforated at several places before people attempt to cross it, who have not come here just to admire the site from the outside. So it is important for us to organise the most efficient form of direct action: occupation.

Direct Action: What is it?

The Tormess Alliance is supposedly committed to direct action, so we should consider what we can do by it. Direct action does not depend for its success on good publicity, creating good relations with the locals or whatever. It is self-sufficient. The occupation itself is 'successful' direct action because it has cost the ASD two days work. Cutting the fence is 'successful' in that it costs time and money to repair it.

We must be clear whether or not the T.A. is to rely on direct action. If it does there can be no objection to destruction of property on tactical grounds.

The Workshop...

As the workshop grew in number (reaching over 100), the discussion concentrated on the occupation. In fact it turned from an anarchist workshop into a sort of unofficial Alliance meeting (bearing in mind the absence of any other chance for such necessary discussion).

Although there were many opinions, a consensus gradually emerged. The fence cutting, pulling and bending, which has happened throughout the day to prepare for the occupation, was welcomed, and people hoped it would continue.

Tomorrow, those here to occupy the site should do so, having publicised their decision to start as widely as possible. This requires coordination and agreement on which time to occupy. The best time it was felt would be directly after the Alliance meeting at 10am tomorrow, and although this was changed to 9pm tonight, it still seems the best unless people wish to start immediately.

To wait longer than tomorrow would be unfair to those who have to leave soon. It also means another day going over the same ideas, and draining our energy. Lastly, the occupation is what most people are here for anyway (although a camping holiday is enjoyable-very.)

-minutes of the Sat. afternoon festival-site discussion

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-minutes of the Sat afternoon festival-site discussion

NUCLEAR REACTION

SINCE THE demonstration at the nuclear site in Brokdorf (reported in our issues of March 19 and April 2) there have been several at other nuclear sites in Germany. Participating comrades have given us accounts of two of these. The first was at a site where no work has yet started, at Gorleben (Lower Saxony, near the East German border), which was a forest until last year, when it was burnt down (our comrades say "there is some talk of arson"). It is proposed to erect a reprocessing plant on the site and to deposit nuclear waste in old salt mines there. Here, on March 12, 15 00 people carried 15,000 young trees and planted them. The 15000 included people from Denmark, Sweden and Norway—countries whose nuclear waste is planned to be exported to this plant if it is built. Our comrades say:

"In contrast to Brokdorf there was hardly any mention made of this demonstration in the bourgeois press and the leftist organisations did little to mobilize for the demonstration. In the face of what amounts to a boycott, the fact that so many people came must be counted as a success for the opponents of nuclear energy... The prevention of this central nuclear waste deposit is going to take a key position in the fight against the whole nuclear power programme of the Federal Government. If no deposit site for the poisonous radioactive waste is found, then all nuclear power plants already in operation will have to close down, and those planned will not be able to open up." There was no battle on this site. "The police kept well out of sight—there wasn't very much to protect. The Atomic Industry has not yet stamped the site as private property."

One week later, on March 19, twenty-five thousand people converged on Grohnde, near Hanover. Here, contrary to a governmental promise of an interruption in the building of nuclear plants to give time for thought, the building is going ahead as fast as possible to create an irreversible fait accompli. The site is protected in military fashion, by a solid double fence and NATO wire, augmented on 19 March by a total of about 5,000 foot and mounted police armed with water cannon, tear gas, batons, and assisted by helicopters dropping mace until forced by the demonstrators kites to keep a respectable distance.

To reach the building site the march was divided into two sections, one approaching from the north and one from the south. The northern section foiled an attempt by the police to stop several busloads of demonstrators even starting to march, and by blocking a railway line the demonstrators ensured the arrival of all groups. The way to the site was blocked by several hundred policemen and three heavy trucks blocking the street. Demonstrators, described by our informants as "well equipped" pulled the trucks away and broke through the police lines. Then

"under heavy bombardment of water (permanently ice-cold) and tear gas, several groups of demonstrators worked at the fence of the building site with welding torches, iron-saws, wire cutters and long ropes." At this point "about 1,000 cops advanced in front of the fence and tried to chase the demonstrators away. Mounted police galloped through the crowds, arousing panic and wounding many peaceful demonstrators. Whoever the police caught alone, he/she was mercilessly beaten up." The demonstrators withdrew—but only when a gap of about 20 metres had been opened in the fence which its builders had described as invincible.

The Total Nuclear State

Our German comrades reiterate the dangers to individual freedom, exemplified in the Traube affair, as set out in our article of 19 March, and add:

"Preparations for the complete control over the individual are already under way in our 'democratic state': In Wiesbaden/Hesse there is the Central Computer of the Federal Crime Police, which is already used to a great extent when police check the identity of people whom they control in the streets, and in border controls. This system of control will then be perfected, when every individual receives his/her number. Plans for this

numerical registration are also well under way." Already "opponents of nuclear energy are threatened by Berufsverbot (i.e., they are barred from civil service employment, for example as teachers, post office workers, railwaymen...)"

"During the Easter holidays demonstrations took place at various nuclear power plants throughout the Federal Republic—Grohnde, Kalkar/Northrhine-Westfalen, Biblis/Hesse, and elsewhere. These demonstrations were non-violent; their major aim was to inform and agitate the local people near the nuclear power plants. This was an attempt to revive the tradition of the CND-movement."

*

In the end, it is this informing and agitating of the people that is the essential task, and the centuries-conditioning of dependence and servitude along with immediate self-interest is no less formidable a barrier than barbed wire and massed police. In this country a minority such as FoE and institutions like NCCL and Justice are alarmed at the threats to life and liberty, but these dangers are not yet real to the millions who have to give their energies to surviving from day to day as things are now. Even so, immediate self-interest may coincide with wider well-being.

INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

THE ANNOUNCEMENT that the United States is about to begin production of the neutron bomb will probably not produce world-wide revolution and the destruction of the State system, though it undoubtedly ought to. The human mind is a strangely conservative mechanism, one which is strongly resistant to the notion that anything can exist which does not exist already, or happen if it has not already happened. Anarchism is dismissed by the deluded because it is not the present system, and no doubt the threat posed by the neutron bomb will be dismissed because the weapon has not yet been used. Once it is used, no doubt it will be accepted precisely because it has been used—thereby becoming one of the unalterable "facts of life".

The neutron bomb which, needless to say, Government scientists have been at work on for years in America, works by releasing vast quantities of neutron which kill soldiers and civilians over a wide range, which producing markedly less blast and heat than the nuclear weapons at present deployed by the Americans in Europe. This effect means that buildings and vehicles are left intact, while their occupants are killed. The massive neutron release of the bomb attacks the central nervous system bringing 'almost immediate incapacitation' and leading to death in anything from a few hours to a few days.

A weapon such as this brings nuclear warfare back into the realm of what strategists euphemistically call 'tough negotiation'. The problem with blast-based nuclear weapons is that they tend to be rather destructive of property, and since the protection of property is what government is all about, even statesmen have been known to show concern at their use. The neutron bomb kills people—which feature rather lower in the State-centric consciousness. Whereas the present-day nuclear arsenal if (or rather, when) used would destroy vast numbers of factories, where the good things of life, so necessary to the well-being of the power élite and the parasite classes who feed on its droppings, are produced, the neutron bomb would only kill workers, who are always in over-abundant supply and whose incessant demands to be fed and clothed are a constant obstacle to the 'efficient' running of the country. To the benign technocracy, people are expendable; machines are not. For the military-political elements therefore, the neutron bomb is a godsend.

Since 1945, the Western European allies have not been able to play soldiers properly. Due to the disturbingly vandalistic effects of nuclear weapons, they have been forced to forego a full scale bloodbath and make do with less satisfying sideshows such as those in Aden and Ulster. The American war in Vietnam was a bit disappointing, as well as being a fairly exclusively Pacific-based war. Not everyone who wanted to was able to get into the game. This sort of restriction is rather depressing for the military top brass, who realise that they will never get a mention from Lord Chalfont unless they do something fairly messy.

With the advent of the neutron bomb, all this has changed. There has never been any

doubt that a war in Europe would involve the use of nuclear weapons by N.A.T.O. and the Warsaw Pact. N.A.T.O.'s 'conventional' forces are vastly inferior, at least in sheer quantity, to those of the Soviet Empire, and both sides know it. All the talk of N.A.T.O. possessing the capability for 'flexible response'—that is, being able to meet an attack at whatever level of force it is launched—is pure fantasy. Since N.A.T.O. could not hold a determined Soviet Assault using her conventional forces, it would quickly have to resort to the use of 'tactical' or battlefield nuclear weapons. These are often referred to as being 'clean', 'mini-nukes'. It is as well to remember that a 'tactical' nuclear weapon is equivalent in blast and fall-out to the weapons used against Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. The weapons are therefore so destructive that they not only encourage immediate escalation to the use of full-scale 'strategic' nuclear weapons, but they also destroy buildings and render regions uninhabitable for years. Effects such as these would obviously interrupt production, which being for the bosses' benefit, is obviously unacceptable. To make matters worse, since the Soviet rulers realise that N.A.T.O. is committed to using nuclear weapons almost immediately in the event of war, there is obviously no point in postponing their own use of these devices. This, understandably, is even less acceptable to the western power élites. The problem for the military, therefore, has been: how to have a war without bringing about the massive destruction of property which all good statesmen abhor. The answer is the neutron bomb. Kill the people, spare the buildings.

The neutron bomb offers the possibility of allowing the military Peter Pans to play toy soldiers for real. A 'people only' weapon means that a large-scale war can be fought in which vast numbers of soldiers die—no problem that, since this is what soldiers are designed to do—and civilians are cut down in droves—that will teach the buggers to moan about defence expenditure! American scientists have also been experimenting on monkeys recently, to determine how long a soldier can carry on fighting after receiving a lethal dose of radiation. The results indicate that an hour or two is likely. This means that the neutron bomb need not even make the air force and armoured corps redundant—they can carry on for an hour before they have to call it a day—and only soldiers and unemployment statistics need suffer!

It would be nice to think that this article is alarmist. It is not. No ultimate weapon in history has ever gathered dust unused. The neutron bomb will be used one day—it may even make its debut on a small scale quelling 'civil disorders'. The armoury of the state is not getting any smaller. And they say that anarchists are extremists! They accuse us of having violent inclinations! Even people who are not anarchists have realised that the next major war will be the war of the generals against humanity, and the advent of the neutron bomb brings the date of that war that much nearer.

As if to show the latent intent behind the weapon more clearly, the funds for the production of the neutron bomb are being allocated as part of the \$10,200 millions 'public works' appropriations bill now before Congress.

Those who argue against anarchism often turn to Hobbes for philosophical support. Hobbes argued that the state is necessary to protect the members of the community from individual or collective violence. He did not shrink from reaching the logical conclusion: that the state cannot ask a citizen to die for it, since to do so would violate its raison d'être. The modern warfare-state, however, not only expects this—it will even forcibly conscript cannon-fodder when it so desires—but actively prepares weapons which are expressly designed only to kill the citizen-victims of the state ideal, its own citizens included. The existence of the state is a death sentence hanging over mankind. The destruction of all states is a necessity if the species is to survive. We cannot wait for history to prove us right, 'history' could end any day at the touch of a button. The effort has to be made here and now. There should be no such thing as a 'quiet anarchist'. Speak up—before mankind is silenced forever.

JOHN DRAKE.

GREENPEACE

The Greenpeace march in opposition to the further development of the nuclear energy industry was not very well attended, but a large number of leaflets were handed out and read.

Greenpeace is smaller and less militant here than across the Atlantic where it has launched some imaginative and spectacular demonstrations. (Most recently the group has hired a minesweeper and acquired an ex-US Navy submarine chaser to harass the whale fishing fleets. In the past members of Greenpeace have sailed boats into nuclear testing zones).

The lack of support for the march on the part of the so-called revolutionary left recalled the fact that it has been virtually ignoring the issue of nuclear power. Yet the implications are potentially more dangerous than any other issue, both ecologically and politically. The development of a nuclear powered technology presupposes the rise of a new technocratic elite accompanied by a vast increase in all the present paraphernalia of political control. The dangers of nuclear power, particularly of fission power, could well be an excuse for the further strengthening of the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

The left has to make a choice between high energy-high consumption-bureaucratic-totalitarian society and equitable, decentralised, participatory society with its alternative technology. This is, indeed, the crucial choice of our time.

RECENTLY IN an East Anglian town there could be noticed a freshly chalked up graffiti 'Poxy American Bastards Go Home'. It was rather less succinct than the adjectiveless objurgation of the 'fifties but its message was clear although misspelt in the original. A few weeks later the East Anglian Daily Times carried a letter from a Suffolk hamlet called Friday Street complaining of a proposed extension of the Bentwaters Air Base which would destroy 280 acres of forest to make way for the erection of 46 concrete aircraft shelters.

This followed one month after the crashing of a bombing plane on Huntingdon with its resultant destruction and loss of life which instituted the Campaign for the Demilitarization of East Anglia. All this had an echo of far-off campaigns and struggles of long ago, of CND and the Committee of 100, of 'Ridgeway Go Home' and the numerous efforts to protest against nuclear warfare and the NATO pact.

'Nothing is going to stop it'?

Much has happened since then. The Test-Ban Treaty was signed—some think a credit for CND. (Others say it only thrust tests underground to be a greater menace to water supplies.) It outlawed tests in Antarctica—and spread them more widely. Now President Carter with the deceptive promise of a new broom has promised a cessation of the anti-communist stance and a check on nuclear proliferation—by others!

Meanwhile back at the Pentagon—and Moscow—preparations went on, new and more terrible devices were introduced: neutron bombs, hydrogen bombs. Now the atom bomb with its destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki is almost a 'conventional' weapon. It reached such a pitch that the delicate balance of terror was in danger of being destroyed. Hence the uneasy conferring on the sketchy 'peace' of the S.A.L.T. talks—which are continuing.

Throughout all this talk of peace the gobbledygook of Pentagon and Kremlin apparently reached the understanding that the aim was to achieve sufficient military power to be able to make (when desirable) a pre-emptive strike—preferably from a forward base in East Anglia or East Germany, as the case may be. The object is to have bases as far from the protagonists as possible. These bases must be heavily protected in case he makes the first (pre-emptive) strike, then you must have second-strike capability to hit back at him after your or anybody else's cities have been destroyed. Hence Friday Street's problem.

The correspondence about Bentwaters and Friday Street was followed on June 17 by a statement from Sir Harwood Harrison (Conservative MP for Eye,

Suffolk), after an interview with Ministry of Defence under-secretary RAF Mr. James Wellbeloved, that the Bentwaters scheme will go through 'no matter how vigorous a campaign is waged against the controversial scheme' reports the E.A.D.T.: "In fact the residents of Friday Street can count themselves lucky because the Ministry at one time considered acquiring the hamlet as part of the project, Sir Harwood revealed." "He [The Under-Secretary] confirmed that the Forestry Commission had already agreed in principle to hand over the large expanse of forest."

"Sir Harwood said," continues the E.A.D.T.: "The only way it will not go through is if they close down Bentwaters and Woodbridge air-bases." "This proposal to reinforce defence of air-bases is to be carried on at all air bases (British as well as American) throughout Britain."

Sir Harwood, who is chairman of the House of Commons Select Committee on

Defence Spending, stated "We have got to defend our country against warlike Russians. All of this is caused by the Russians with the large amount of aggressive re-armament which they have been carrying out in their armed forces over the past year."

Speaking directly of Friday Street he said, "It is a very, very hard luck story but it is demanded of us if we are to put out people and our country in a state of preparedness."

However, the correspondents from Friday Street seemed to be chiefly concerned with the preservation of rural amenities and the maintenance of property values and like good bourgeois they accept Sir Harwood Harrison's and Mr. James Wellbeloved's pliant interpretation of N.A.T.O.'s demands, their chief demurrance seeming to be that the USAF should, like gypsies, 'go somewhere else'.

It is this narrow viewpoint which can only widen itself to a blind destructive patriotism which is the province of the bourgeois of the Suffolk commuter-belt. There are no innocent bourgeois and the means of NATO and the fanatical weapon system development lead to the end of nuclear death and destruction for all.

Despite Harrison and Wellbeloved, what can stop the spread of the military-industrial complex is active refusal and non-cooperation both on the part of property-owners and of the workers who up to now, have spinelessly acquiesced in the slow staining spread of military bases both in the Western and Eastern blocs.

Are we going to stop it before it stops us?

JACK ROBINSON.

CONTACT: C. D. E. A.
41, YORK STREET,
CAMBRIDGE.

How can you help?

- first, and most importantly, make your views and questions known to your elected representatives, local and national, both in writing and by seeing or telephoning them.
- let all candidates for election to local or national government know their position on this issue will help decide your vote
- support the local and regional councillors who take a stand on this issue
- write to the Secretary of State for Scotland and the Secretary of State for Energy
- get your trade union branch, political party, club or society to pass a resolution and send a copy to your Member of Parliament
- talk to your workmates, friends, neighbours and relations about Torness
- join one of the many organisations opposed to Torness
- buy FOE's booklet 'Torness: Keep it Green' which explains our position in greater detail
- send a donation to FOE's campaign

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What can be done?

The decision to build Torness is a political decision having little bearing on the real needs or interests of Scottish electricity consumers. Furthermore, in that the decision to go ahead represents a further commitment to nuclear power it has repercussions throughout Britain. Political decisions can be reversed - even at the eleventh hour. But they are only reversed if there is a public outcry which is both loud and sustained. With elections due soon, strong public opposition can cause the Government to think again.

The case against going ahead with Torness is overwhelming:

- nuclear electricity is the most expensive way of meeting energy needs
- Scotland has no need for further large generating plant
- the AGR is an unproven technology
- it will dislocate the local economy and place additional burdens on the community
- the station and its associated transmission lines will spoil an area of outstanding beauty

Only a fraction of the £742 million investment would be spent in the region. Once one station is built it is likely that more will follow. Further work on the site should be halted immediately and there should be a wide ranging inquiry into the scandalous electrical over-capacity in Scotland.

We urgently need your help NOW.
Without it we cannot continue.

If you would like further information or wish to send a donation please contact:

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TORNESS

keep it green

TORNESS - FOOLISHNESS

On May 24th 1978, Bruce Millan the Secretary of State for Scotland gave consent for the construction of a nuclear power station at Torness Point in East Lothian. This decision marked the beginning of a process that could turn Torness into one of Europe's largest nuclear complexes.

Torness Point lies five miles to the south of Dunbar, on the Firth of Forth. It is an area of scientific interest on a rocky coastline of outstanding scenic beauty. The 220 foot high reactor hall and the giant pylons for the 400 kilovolt transmission lines will destroy the character of the area and threaten tourism. Over 150 acres of prime agricultural land will be lost directly to the power station and more will be needed to provide houses, roads and other services.

In 1974 a public inquiry lasting a mere eight days was held in Dunbar. It was a travesty. The Inspector took no account of the potential for conservation measures nor the impact of higher energy prices on electricity demand. The South of Scotland Electricity Board failed to say what kind of reactors were to be built at Torness; what size they would be; and when they were to be built. Despite this, however, planning permission was granted for two nuclear power stations with up to eight reactors.

Not surprisingly public opposition to this nuclear nonsense has grown as details of the proposals have slowly leaked out. In May 1978, 4000 people massed in Dunbar to march to the site. A later demonstration saw 30 tractors and trucks drive in procession from Torness to Edinburgh. By August the opposition had grown stronger and the Lothian Regional Council called upon Bruce Millan to re-open the public inquiry.

He refused. In September he approved the capital investment for two 660 megawatt Advanced Gas-cooled Reactors (AGRs) for the power station.

Is it necessary?

There are already nine nuclear reactors on three sites in Scotland, providing about one quarter of Scotland's electricity – a higher proportion of nuclear generated electricity than in any other country. In arguing for Torness the South of Scotland Electricity Board said that electricity demand would rise by an average of six per cent every year so that demand would roughly double by 1985 and treble by 1995. In fact growth in demand since the inquiry has been about one per cent per year. In 1978 existing power stations in Scotland could produce 70 per cent more electricity than was needed on the coldest day of the year. Even with a generous margin as an insurance policy this still allows the two Scottish Electricity Boards to meet foreseeable growth in demand without further power stations.

To add more capacity to this existing surplus would be madness.

Safe and reliable?

In Britain five AGR stations were ordered between 1965 and 1970. On average each station is already five years behind schedule. In 1976 the Board itself raised doubts about the 'long-term performance of the system and the difficulty of making effective repairs'. All ten Advanced Gas-cooled Reactors had been downrated at least ten per cent before any of them had produced a single unit of electricity. Both of the currently operating AGR stations at Hunterston on the Clyde and at Hinkley Point in Somerset have suffered major problems; one reactor at Hunterston will be out of service for two years due to an accident in October 1977.

Operating nuclear reactors generate prodigious quantities of radioactive waste which must be contained at almost any cost. If even a small fraction of this waste were to be released as a result of a mechanical failure, human error or even sabotage it could have devastating

consequences on the local environment. A number of nuclear stations have been attacked already in other countries.

Who will pay?

The Scottish electricity consumer. The latest cost estimate for Torness is £742 million, but on past performance this can be expected to rise substantially. Each of the Electricity Boards' two million customers will therefore be contributing on average at least £375 towards the cost of a nuclear power station for which they have no need. Essentially, Scotland's electricity consumers are being asked to support an ailing British nuclear industry which has not had an order for eight years. Furthermore, it will be Scottish ratepayers who will have to pay the cost of providing social services, housing, schools, water supplies and roads for the expected influx of well over 1000 construction workers and several hundred permanent staff and their families.

Jobs for whom?

Clearly jobs for skilled workers in manufacturing companies. But few of the permanent jobs will go to the people of East Lothian. People with the skills required to operate and maintain a complex technology like nuclear power are unlikely to be found in any number in such a rural area. Even the majority of the construction workforce will have to be skilled and well paid craftsmen from outside the region. Hence the need to construct a work camp for 1000 workers. Even were a significant number of short-term jobs to become available experience elsewhere shows that massive construction projects can dislocate the economy. The result is a short 'boom' followed by a long period of depression.